INDUSTRY PROFILES

Agricultural Industry

July 2011

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Agricultural industry[1] in Alberta includes a variety of establishments or services:

- farms, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries and other places that grow crops, plants or trees;
- ranches, farms, feedlots and other places that raise animals, produce animal products or fatten animals;
- fishing and trapping activities; and
- agricultural support services such as planting, harvesting or management.

Section A: Business Environment
1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
Section C: Additional Information
Links to Selected Industry Associations

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups 111, 112, 114, 1151 and 1152

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2010 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Agricultural Industry
Number of employed	2,016,600	47,100
Percent employed in the industry		2.3%
Number of unemployed	140,700	N/A
Unemployment rate	6.5%	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient sample size.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Agricultural industry is expected to grow on average 0.3% annually from 2010 to 2013.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Agricultural industry accounted for approximately 2.9% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2010, down from 3.4% in 2000. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 4.5% in 2000 to 2.3% in 2010.

Employment in 2010 was 12.3% lower than its level in 2009. Over the last ten years, employment has decreased from 70,600 people in 2000 to 47,100 people in 2010. The proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 years employed in the industry declined from 13.3% in 2000 to 8.7% in 2010 while the proportion of employees aged 55 years and over increased from 35.1% in 2000 to 41.4% in 2010.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2011-2015*, employment growth in the following occupations is expected to be less than 2.7%, the average for all occupations: Agricultural and horticultural workers; and Contractors, operators and supervisors in agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta's Businesses		Agricultural Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	605,200	36.2%	7,400	72.5%
20 to 99 employees	565,800	33.8%	2,300	22.5%
100 to 500 employees	309,300	18.5%	N/A	N/A
Over 500 employees	193,200	11.5%	N/A	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient response.
Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Agriculture industry include:

- farm worker;
- dairy producer;
- greenhouse operator;
- animal care attendant; and
- beekeeper.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Agricultural industry is as follows:

- women employed: 14,300 people, or 30.4%
- men employed: 32,800 people, or 69.6%

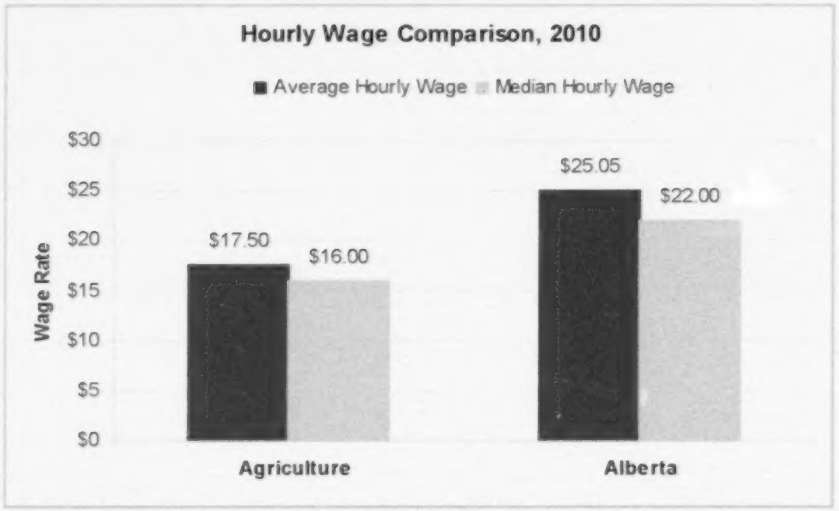
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.1% and men made up 54.9% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Agricultural Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	314,500	15.6%	4,100	8.7%
25-54 years	1,381,500	68.5%	23,500	49.9%
55 years and over	320,600	15.9%	19,500	41.4%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2010, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Agricultural representative, consultant and specialist	$ 24.11	$ 29.15	$ 35.86	$ 61,246
General farm worker	$ 14.18	$ 16.31	$ 18.87	$ 37,141
Farmer and farm manager (beekeeper)	$ 16.25	$ 21.34	$ 24.82	$ 50,770
Farm supervisor and specialized livestock worker (swine technician)	$ 16.46	$ 19.25	$ 22.61	$ 36,931

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Agricultural industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association
  (http://aaea.ab.ca)
- Alberta Barley Commission
  (http://www.albertabarley.com)
- Alberta Chicken Producers
  (http://www.chicken.ab.ca)
- Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency Ltd.
  (http://www.almaltd.ca)
- Alberta Milk Producers
  (http://www.albertamilk.com)
- Agriculture and Food Council
  (http://www.agfoodcouncil.com)
- Alberta Pork
  (http://www.albertapork.com)
- Canada Beef Export Federation
  (http://www.cbef.com)
- Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association
  (http://www.albertafarmfresh.com)
- Canadian Wheat Board
  (http://www.cwb.ca)